REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 11, 13 to 19, 21 to 27 and 29 to 44 are in the application, of which Claims 33 to 44 have been withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for election between species. Of the claims currently under consideration, Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 33 to 44, in light of the amendments to the claims under consideration.

In the Office Action, an objection was lodged against the title. The current title reads "Preview For Spooled Print Jobs" as amended in the Preliminary Amendment dated June 16, 2005. This title is seen as entirely descriptive, such that it is not understood why an objection was lodged against the title. No change has been made. However, if the Examiner persists in his objection to the title, then he is respectfully requested to suggest another title, or to explain the reasons why he finds the current title defective.

Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly unclear antecedence. In response, each of those claims has been amended so as to improve antecedence, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants confirm the Examiner's withdrawal of his prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and of his prior objections to the drawings.

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With respect to the claims under consideration, the Office Action entered a rejection of all of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 6,173,295 (Goertz) in view of U.S. Patent 5,953,007 (Center) and U.S. Patent 6,100,998 (Nagao). In addition, reliance was placed on U.S. Patent 6,570,669 (Onuma) in the rejection of certain ones of the dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns an information processing apparatus as a host computer for generating print data including printer control commands to be transmitted to a printing apparatus. Spooling converts drawing data issued by an application to be printed into intermediate code format data, and temporarily spools the intermediate code format data and print setting information as one print job in a spool file. The print setting information includes layout information specified via a user interface of a printer driver, and the spooling is configured to spool a plurality of the intermediate code format data of a plurality of print jobs. The plurality of intermediate code format data are composed, for the plurality of the spooled print jobs, so as to generate composed print data of one composed job. Layout information is obtained, for the plurality of composed print jobs, and a simultaneous display of a preview image is performed for the plurality of intermediate code format data. The simultaneous display of a preview image is performed before generation of the composed print data of the composed print job. This preview image is edited in accordance with the respective layout information, and indicates that the respective page layout of the plurality of print jobs is maintained.

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With respect to the applied art, it is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features, particularly with respect to spooling, composing, and previewing, as explained more fully below.

Goertz shows a client computer 4 that generates a job ticket in which a plurality of print settings are defined, using a user interface, and that sends the generated job ticket to a MPC server 6.

Center discloses generating a job ticket using a job ticket submitter. Center also discloses executing print settings using a user interface, and displaying a view indicating print layout according to the print settings.

Nagao shows a printing apparatus that generates intermediate data from received print data, and that generates processing time based on the size or type of the generated intermediate data to determine the optimum printing speed.

Thus, even when given its most favorable interpretation, Goertz merely discloses generation of a job ticket, which might correspond to the print setting information of the present invention. Goertz, however, fails to disclose that print data is generated in the client computer, fails to disclose composition of a plurality of intermediate code format data of a plurality of print jobs, and fails to disclose generation of composed print data of one composed job.

Goertz also fails to disclose spooling intermediate code format data. According to the Office Action, Goertz shows storage of PostScript® format data into a library/spool file at column 9. In the invention, the intermediate code format data is converted from drawing data issued by an application, and print data to be transmitted to

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the printer is generated from the intermediate code format data. For this reason, the present

invention spools the intermediate code format data and the print setting information

separately from each other. In Goertz, however, the PostScript® itself has layout

information as correctly understood in the Office Action, and does not show spooling of

intermediate code format data separately from spooling of print setting information. The

basic reason for this deficiency in Goertz is that PostScript® is print data, not intermediate

code format data.

Goertz also does not teach composing a plurality of intermediate code

format data of a plurality of print jobs, and generating composed print data of one

composed job. The Office Action refers to job ticket 40 of Figure 2. This figure, however,

merely shows a job ticket which is a text file or an .xml file that defines print attributes

used in printing a data file (i.e., the PostScript® file of Goertz) associated with the job

ticket. Printing is impossible if only the job ticket is provided. Figure 10 of Goertz shows

selection of a data file for the job ticket, and therefore it is understood by Applicants that

the data file and the job ticket are sent to the printer, whereafter the server generates printer

control data which can be interpreted by the printer. For this reason, Goertz fails to teach

that generation of a proposed print job is performed in client computer 4.

Finally, the Office Action contends that Center teaches the preview of a

composed print job. Center, however, merely displays a view indicating print layout as set

in a job ticket. This view is not a preview image of a plurality of intermediate code format

data, it is not edited in accordance with respective layout information, and it does not

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indicate that the respective page layout of the plurality of print jobs is maintained, as claimed herein.

Nagao adds nothing to the above-noted deficiencies in Goertz and Center. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the independent claims herein are patentable over any permissible combination of Goertz, Center and Nagao, and allowance of the claims herein is respectfully requested.
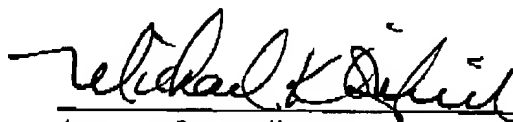
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REQUEST FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney when taking this case up for action, so that a personal interview can be scheduled and conducted before a further action on the merits. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (714) 540-8700.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No.: 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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